City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item

Committee:	**Public Works and Mobility**
Item:	**Resolution supporting advancing into the final design and implementation of the Downtown Safety Access and Mobility (SAM) project**
Date:	June 3, 2026
Sponsor(s):	Megan McMeekin, Sr. Project Manager & Jeremy Keene, PWM Director
Department or function:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Prepared by:	Megan McMeekin

Ward(s) Affected:

☒ Ward 1	☐ Ward 4
☐ Ward 2	☐ Ward 5
☒ Ward 3	☐ Ward 6
☐ All Wards	☐ N/A

Action Required:
Approve the resolution supporting advancing into final design and implementation of the Downtown Safety Access and Mobility (SAM) project.

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council: Approve the resolution supporting advancing into final design and implementation of the Downtown Safety Access and Mobility (SAM) project, as established in attached Resolution.

Timeline:

Committee discussion:	June 10, 2025
Council action (or sets hearing):	June 15, 2025
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Deadline:	N/A

Background and Alternatives Explored:
The City of Missoula was awarded a Federal RAISE Grant in June 2023 to provide funding to enhance the safety, access, and mobility in the Downtown area. Four projects were included in the grant application, and because they are close to one another and have like purposes, they were combined to create the Downtown Safety-Access-Mobility (Downtown SAM) project. The four project elements include Higgins Avenue Multi-Modal Improvements, Front/Main Two-Way Restoration, Riverfront Trail and Connectivity Improvements, and Signal Optimization.

The Downtown SAM Project will implement recommendations identified through numerous adopted plans and studies, including the Downtown Master Plan, Higgins Ave Corridor Study, Front/Main Two-Way Conversion Feasibility study, Long Range Transportation Plans, and North Riverside Parks and Trails planning efforts. The project is intended to improve safety for all users, enhance accessibility, strengthen multi-modal connections, improve downtown circulation, and

modernize key transportation infrastructure, creating a safer, more connected, and inviting Downtown Missoula.

The design for Downtown SAM is advancing toward a 90% level of detail. At this stage, the project's primary design framework and major improvements have been established, while specific design details continue to be refined. Throughout project development, the City has conducted technical reviews, coordinated with partner agencies and stakeholders, and engaged with the public to evaluate design options and refine project elements.

Various design elements have been explored throughout the planning and design process, including evaluation of street configurations, bike facility treatments, intersection improvements, trail enhancements, ADA ramp configuration, and traffic operations. The recommended design framework reflects the alternative determined to best meet project goals, respond to community input, satisfy the federal grant requirements, and advance the City's adopted transportation, safety, accessibility, and economic development objectives.

The proposed Resolution affirms City Council support for the Downtown SAM Project and the project's major design elements, allowing the project to advance into final design and construction.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Links to external websites:

https://www.engagemissoula.com/hub-page/downtown-safety-access-mobility-project